

The OVH ARC Newsletter
OLE VIRGINIA HAMS™ AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 4293, Manassas, Va. 20108-0728
OVH FM Repeaters - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+ & 443.500+
OVH D-STAR Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.865- & 442.5125+
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

Renew your OVH
membership now!

February 2026

Next Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

VICE PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Around here, February is usually our worst winter weather month. March is coming, hopefully with improved conditions.

The next upcoming Monthly OVH Meeting will be on Wednesday (not Tuesday) February 18, 2026, 7:30 pm at the Buckhall VFD Hall 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas. This will include the annual OVH officer elections. A reminder to everyone: it's still that time of the year again so please be sure to renew your OVH membership for 2026. See the flyer later in this Newsletter to do so by mail, or go to W4OVH.net to renew online.



March will also bring the Virginia QSO Party on March 21st and 22nd. That is a fun radio event. See, https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2026_VQP/2026_VQP_Main.html for the full details. All club members should try to get on the air and make a few, or a lot of contacts. Compiling and submitting a log is easy and helps our club standings.

John / KG4NXT has been busy radiowise, achieving the coveted Parks On The AIR 4000 Hunter Award [Kokia Drynarioides] and the W7DK Bigfoot certificate. Congratulations John, for the dedication required for these achievements. See images of those two awards on page 7 later in this Newsletter. Other OVH members in the POTA chase are Jeff / K9VEG completing the KILO, WAS, Western Prairie Fringed Orchid Hunter and the Oasis Activator Award. Bruce / KN4GDX, has earned the Winlink Wednesday Century Award, and David / KG4GIY also has the Winlink Wednesday Century Award.

Wayne / N7QLK, one of OVH's Thursday Night FM Net controls, is planning to attend Florida's

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 4293
Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

OFFICERS

President:	Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
Vice Pres:	Vacant		
Secretary:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Treasurer:	Jeff Porter	K9VEG	216-7734

DIRECTORS

George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451
Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

JOHN	KG4NXT	257-3566
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time		

TAILGATE (HAMFEST) 2024 - CHAIRMAN

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2024 - CHAIRWOMAN

Cat otohime.1978@gmail.com	KM4PBD	571-213-2179
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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VE COORDINATOR

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open - volunteer needed!

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
See http://pwcares.org	email: kg4giy@arrl.net	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211

GENERATORS

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

WARRIOR BIKE RIDE - CHAIRMAN

Andy andy@gamponia.com	KJ4MTP	785-4651
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WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET + Twitter & Facebook

Kevin	W4RKU	540-445-5183
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

Web Committee "help request" email: webmaster@w4ovh.net

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR

George	K4GVT	791-5956
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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CHRISTMAS / YEAR END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

Theresa.	KG4TVM	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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QUARTERMASTER

Open - volunteer needed!

THURSDAY NIGHT NET / REPEATER CONTROLLERS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794
James	KQ4CAX	628-5186
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ken	KE2N	753-8587
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2024 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its regular monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia except during the COVID pandemic (in 2020-2021) during which the monthly meetings were held online. The Newsletter will have login details for monthly online meetings if applicable. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeater each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>. Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and other source(s) noted. Proposed materials for publication, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited. Forward such items to the Newsletter Editor: paul@w4zb.com. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20251025

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Hamcation Hamfest in Orlando this weekend and to distribute OVH Hamfest flyers there.

And now it's time to blow my own horn. The ARRL has posted the final scores for the 2025 September VHF Contest and the RAW scores for the recent January VHF Contest. Here I am again in second place for both events. It is tough competing against a pack of Rovers running together with a driver and an operator. But, I am getting closer each contest.

All comments and opinions are welcome either to the web site, where moderating issues may exist, or to Gil at km4ozh@gmail.com That is all for now.

VP Gil KM4OZH 73

Sunshine Corner



Happy Birthday wishes to all of the following OVH club members with birthdays in February: Dick / WN7S, Harvey / WB6TTF, Jeff / WB6UIE, Art / W1CRO, Mike / KN4NDI, Tyssen / W8ZM and Gerald / KN4DWT. Each of you enjoy your day!



*****Please REMEMBER the February OVH monthly club meeting will be held on Wednesday (NOT Tuesday), February 18th, at the Buckhall Fire Department. *****

Extremely sad news to report, James / KQ4CAX passed away on February 5th. James had a stroke at the end of November and then another stroke in January. On the evening of February 5th he suffered a further cardiac event from which he could not recover. James was a relatively new OVH member, having just joined the club in 2022, but he was an extremely active member, contributing both to OVH's activities and to the overall ham radio community on a regular basis. He was a regular net control on Thursdays for the OVH and also quite active in POTA. He will be missed by everyone. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. See, photo to the right of James / KQ4CAX at the OVH's POTA event at Conway Robinson State Park in 2025.



Very long time OVH member and former OVH officer and director, Butch / W4HJL (photo to the right), has been in the Gainesville Health & Rehab Center working on mobility issues. George / K4GVT has taken an HT and antenna over to Butch so he will have the means to participate in the Thursday night OVH FM Net and also for QSOs on the 146.97 FM repeater when and if he is able.



Manassas Hamfest 2026 – A lot of the upfront work has been started and some items completed. We need club members to

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volunteer to help on the day of the scheduled Manassas Hamfest, Saturday, June 20, 2026. Also, need help spreading the word to other hams, clubs, possible vendors and tailgaters. If you belong to another club and would like to hand out flyers, please let me know and I will get those to you. Also, for vendors, if they want to reserve a table in advance, the Hamfest section on OVH's website, W4OVH.NET has a table reservation section and PayPal button, thanks to John / KG4NXT for setting that up.

Getting to the Middle Peninsula Hamfest in Gloucester, Virginia was quite a driving challenge on Saturday, February 7th, but once we arrived, we were glad that we had made the trip. Please article and photos about that on the OVH website and later in this Newsletter.

Next up is Winterfest in Vienna on Sunday, March 15th. OVH will have a table set up at Winterfest, if you have something you want to sell let us know! The very popular Virginia QSO Party will be on the following weekend, March 21 – 22, 2026.

Please make sure the club has your correct call sign and mailing address in the member's only section at w4ovh.net

Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info! kg4tvm@hotmail.com

Thursday night net at 8 pm is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what everyone is up to with their radios!



73 Theresa / KG4TVM kg4tvm@hotmail.com Tel: 703-257-3566

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on January 21, 2026:

Vice-President Gil / KM4OZH called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on January 21, 2026 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. All present stated their names and callsigns.

The program was a video on the Electro Magnetic Pulse (EMP).

The minutes of the November 18, 2025 and December 13, 2025 meetings were approved.

Jeff / K9VEG gave the treasurer's report which was approved. Jeff advised that OVH's biggest single expense items was its Comcast internet bill. He also gave a year over year balance report.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the membership report for Luther / WA3FMO: There was one new read-in: Rob Winterrowd / KR4EEV who will be voted on at the next meeting.

ARES: No report this month.

Ken / KE2N gave the Repeater report. All repeaters and web interfaces are working. The 220 repeater works fine but is noisy. The 5 gigahertz link needs some work. One new

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Dstar registration was made.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave the Training report. The Centreville Public Library will host our VE sessions. He will schedule a VE session soon. The need for a VE session at Hamfest in June was discussed.

Hamfest – Theresa / KG4TVM mentioned listing the Hamfest with ARRL as well as a 1600 email blast with the hamfest flyer and plans to go to several hamfest to distribute flyers.

Field Day – John / KG4NXT reported that an special event application has been filed with the county.

Website: No report, but it is working.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. January birthdays were mentioned. She also mentioned several OVH member with current medical issues, including Joe / KI4OHR, Butch / W4HJL, Al / KB4BHB and James / KQ4CAX. She also mentioned John / N4MM who recently passed. Gil discussed his recent January VHF contest scores.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Gil / KM4OZH made the following motion which was passed: All elected club officers are exempt from paying club dues. Officers who have already paid dues for the next year will be carried forward or possibly refunded.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

There are few nearby Hamfests this Winter. Check the ARRL Hamfest Calendar for more information about upcoming Hamfests. Hamcation in Orlando, Florida is currently underway.

March 15, 2025 (Sunday), Winterfest 2026 sponsored by Vienna Wireless in nearby Vienna, Virginia. See the Flyer later in this Newsletter for more info. OVH will have a table at the event.

OVH RELATED EVENTS

June 20, 2026 (Saturday). The Manassas Hamfest 2026 is now scheduled. Save the date and plan to volunteer to assist the OVH in making this a successful Hamfest. A lot more info about this will be provided for OVH members on the OVH members only email reflector and for everyone on W4OVH.NET over the next several months.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

February 21 - 22, 2026 (Saturday / Sunday) - CW DX Contest on the HF bands by the ARRL

March 7 - 8, 2026 (Saturday / Sunday) - Phone DX Contest on the HF bands by the ARRL

Details about both of these popular DX HF contests at: <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

March 22 - 23, 2026 (Saturday / Sunday). The the annual Virginia QSO Party will take place. See, https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2026_VQP/2026_VQP_Main.html for details.

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This a very popular event for OVH members who have just a little or a lot of time to spend in the event; if you participate, be sure to show your OVH affiliation when submitting your log.

See, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for the ARRL maintained Contesting web page; see also, NG3K.com and <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM for more radio contesting info!

PUBLIC EVENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar on the OVH's web site at W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related events. Also, check the online Calendar maintained by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcares.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David / KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

KG4NXT's Report on the 2026 Middle Peninsula Hamfest in Gloucester, Virginia

On February 7, 2026, Theresa / KG4TVM, and John / KG4NXT went to the Middle Peninsula Hamfest in Gloucester, Virginia. The weather was very cold and we had swirling snow that seriously obstructed our vision while enroute. The event was quite well attended considering the weather conditions.

We had a table for the OVH and our primary purpose there was to distribute OVH flyers for the upcoming 2026 Manassas Hamfest on June 20th.

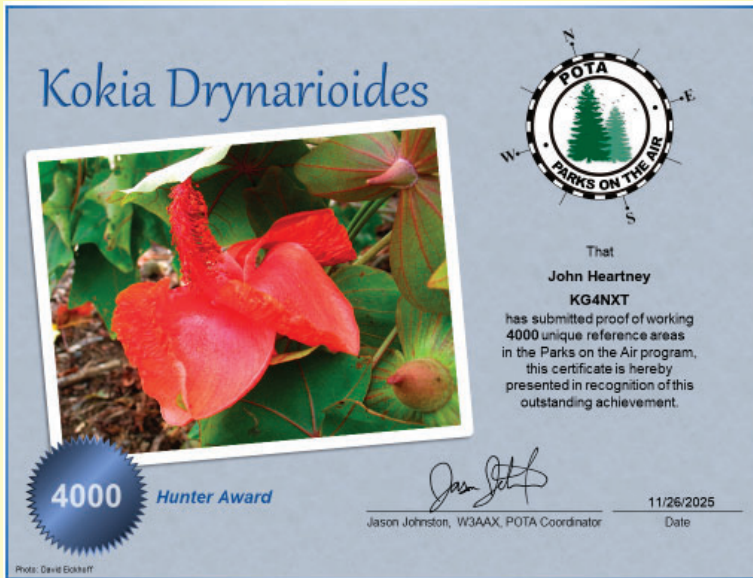
Ron / K3FR also attended with an IC-7100 with its original box and manuals for sale. Ron received an offer but did not take it. Someone gave John a low power Dentron tuner which John brought home.

We will be happy to take any other consignment items to be shown or offered at the OVH's table during the upcoming Vienna Wireless Winterfest event on March 15th. We charge no consignment fee!

Attending the hamfest too was Scott / KE4WMF who is a VHF limited rover contest contestant like OVH's Gil / KM4OZH. Scott gave a presentation on the evolution of his car, including its antenna systems, as a contest vehicle. Scott's car was parked nearby with its antenna farm extended for all to view.



Two Recent Operating Awards Earned by John / KG4NXT



Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. Those interested in radio contesting know that observing good “etiquette” during contest events is important. What’s involved and what does that mean? See, DX Engineering’s blog: <https://www.onallbands.com/guide-to-january-2026-ham-radio-contests-good-etiquette-edition/> for a fairly complete discussion of this important subject for contesters.

2. A very interesting presentation about the HamClock hardware and software systems was made by John / KG4NXT to the OVH in the Fall of 2024. Unfortunately, the HamClock developer, Elwood Downey, WB0OEW, recently passed away; as a result, the HamClock system is now scheduled to stop working in June 2026 when its backend servers are shut down. The good news is that a very closely related system known as OpenHamClock has been developed and will be the successor to HamClock thanks mostly to K0CHN. The new OpenHamClock system will also have expanded capabilities. See, <https://openhamclock.com> for more details about this and how to avoid future problems with HamClock systems.

3. Want to learn the basics of ham radio mostly using a comprehensive set of online videos? The DARC (German Amateur Radio Club) has been supporting a web site [<https://50ohm.de/>] which does just that with an extensive set of videos and other materials which are primarily oriented to assisting newcomers in passing the ham radio licensing exams in Germany. So what possible use can this be to me you think initially because you don’t know or speak any German and have no need for a German ham license in the USA! Think again I say and take even just a quick look at <https://50ohm.de> in a modern web browser to see what is now available online. When you first go to <https://50ohm.de> using your American English language based web browser set to use Google for search, etc., Google will ask you if would like the web pages translated to English. Click “Yes” and be amazed immediately how all of the text on each page is suddenly converted to readable, understandable and fluent American English! Select and start one of the videos, almost all of which are recorded in German only, but plan to fiddle a bit with the CC (closed captions) and Language Settings in the Youtube video player. You can, of course, get closed captions in German text and hear the video narration in German. But once you get the proper settings, the closed captions will be in fluent American English (converted in real time from the German text) and the video narration will also be in real time by an almost natural sounding (robot) speaker of American English based upon the converted closed caption text. This is amazing, but be forewarned, the AI translation system is not yet converting the video of the narrator’s lip movements to the spoken American English! Ham Radio is an international hobby and most of the up to date content at this web site is pertinent to a newcomer or learner in the USA.

REMINDER



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!! Below is the 2026 Renewal Application.

Please fill out the form below (for database), attach your check and mail to the address below or drop off at a meeting. Be sure to update all information, including your e-mail address, telephone number(s) and nine digit ZIP. Note: please check online at <https://w4ovh.net> for ways to do this renewal online.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB" for 2026

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

CALL SIGN: _____
Home Tel: _____
Cell Tel: _____
Work Tel: _____
EMAIL: _____
BIRTHDAY: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)

ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER: (YES/NO)

MAY YOUR TELEPHONE NOS. BE LISTED IN THE "Members Only" OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)

WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? _____

Dues are **\$25.00** per year and payable on January 1, 2026. Dues for each additional family member living at the same mailing address are \$12.50. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate or at lower level [list school attended and grade or level: _____] are only \$12.50. Dues must be current to be eligible to vote in the February 2025 election of officers for 2025.

AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS:

Name: _____
Name: _____

Call: _____
Call: _____

Return to: **Treasurer, OVH**
P.O. Box 4293
Manassas, VA 20108-0728

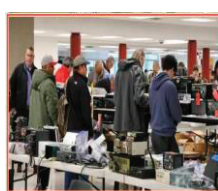


The Vienna Wireless Society invites you to...

WINTERFEST™

March 15, 2026 8am to 2pm

Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181



Charity raffle tickets \$10. 5 Tickets \$40
<https://ticketstripe.com/events/4304107921520517#>

No need to be there to win!

Advance Admission Tickets: \$12 plus service fee.

At the door: \$15.

**Vendors: Tailgating \$20 first
& \$10 additional parking
space.**
Includes one admission ticket.

**ON-LINE SALES END AT 8PM EST SATURDAY,
MARCH 15th.**
AFTER THAT, ALL TICKETS SALES AT THE DOOR!

Ham Radio License Exams

Scout Radio
Merit Badge

ticket sales
start
January 2026

Food and Refreshments

Vintage ham gear Electronic Parts Antennas
Consignment gear Estate Sales Local Clubs Book Sales
Test equipment Accessories & Connectors ARRL Convention

More info



Tickets



Directions





INDOOR HAMFEST & TAILGATE EVENT

Saturday, June 20th, 2026

[Charles J. Colgan Sr. High School](#)

13833 Dumfries Rd, Manassas VA 20112

Colgan is a state-of-the-art High School in Prince William County that was opened in 2016, we will be using doors #33 and #34
Please watch for signage at the school

**GENERAL
ADMISSION
DOORS OPEN AT 8
AM
\$10.00 PER PERSON**

**INSIDE VENDORS
DOORS OPEN AT 7 AM
\$25 PER TABLE
INCLUDES 1 SIX FOOT
ROUND TABLE, 1 CHAIR
& 1 ADMISSION TICKET
ADDITIONAL TABLES
\$20 PER TABLE**

**TAILGATE
SET UP AT 7 AM
\$15 PER PARKING
SPACE
DOES NOT INCLUDE
ANY**

**VA QSO
PARTY
AWARDS**

**ARRL
TABLE**

**DOORS CLOSE
AT 12:30 PM**